

obtaining, from the disk, a second individualized
code disposed on a second area of the disk; and

using the second individualized code obtained to
process second data associated with the second
5 individualized code.

23. (Amended) A method for forming a disk,
comprising the steps of:

10 encoding first main data on a first area of the
disk; and

encoding a first individualized code on a second
area of the disk for identifying the first main data;

encoding second main data on a third area of the
disk; and

15 encoding a second individualized code on a fourth
area of the disk for identifying the second main data.

REMARKS

20 Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 6, 19, 21 and 23
have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim
the subject matter that applicant regards as his
invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the
present amendment.

25 Responsive to the objection to the abstract, the
abstract has been amended to replace the term
"individualizable" to "individualized." The replacement
term is consistent with the usage in the present
specification, for example, see page 8, lines 18-23.

30 Responsive to the objection to claims 6-12, claim 6
has been amended by replacing the term "individualizable"
with the term "individualized."

Applicant submits that the objections to the
abstract and to claims 6-12 have been overcome in view of
the amendment.

35 Responsive to the rejection of claims 19, 22 and 23
under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokota

(U.S. Pat. No. 5,768,252), Applicant submits that for the reasons discussed below claims 19, 22 and 23 are not anticipated by Yokota.

5 The present invention recognizes that it is desirable to provide multiple laser-encoded areas on a single disk, wherein each area includes individualized information associated with each respective program stored on the disk. Such an arrangement would allow, for example, a program distributor to uniquely identify the
10 contents of the disk (see page 5, lines 13-25). In that regard, a notable feature of the present invention is that a first individualized code on a first area is associated with first program data on the disk, and a second individualized code on the second area is
15 associated with second program data on the disk. Present claim 19 recites, "... identifying a count representing the number of laser encoded areas on said disk, each one of said plurality of programs on said disk being uniquely associated with a particular one of the laser encoded
20 areas..." Present claim 22 recites "... using the first individualized code obtained to process first data associated with the first code ... and using the second individualized code obtained to process second data associated with the second individualized code." Claim
25 23 similarly recites this feature in the context of forming a disk. Applicant submits that for the reasons discussed below Yokota fails to disclose such a feature.

Yokota relates to a method and apparatus for adding character information, such as title information, to a
30 disk, in addition to the management information stored in the table of contents ("TOC") (col. 1, lines 34-38; col. 5, lines 15-26; col. 5, lines 45-49). To achieve this result, Yokota provides a second management area, which is separate from the first management area, and includes
35 attribute information associated with programs stored on the disk (col. 5, lines 50-61). In that regard, it is

clear that both the first and second management areas are associated with the same program area on the disk, wherein the first management area provides information such as address information associated with the programs, and the second management area provides character information associated with the programs.

In reference to Figure 10, Yokota notes that the first TOC area 1 has recorded therein "... a first management information of audio data recorded in the first program area 2," and that the second TOC area 4 has recorded therein "... an information concerning the attributes of the plural audio data in the first program area 2. (emphasis added)" (col. 7, line 59 - col. 8, line 6). Further, the second TOC is access based on information stored in the first TOC (col. 12, line 59 - col. 13, line 5). The diagram of Figure 16 shows that in processing a disk according to Yokota, the first TOC is accessed and processed, then the second TOC is accessed and processed, and finally the first program is accessed and processed (see, steps S1, S8, and S10).

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the first and second management areas of Yokota are entirely distinguishable from the data areas recited in the present claims. In particular, Applicant submits that Yokota fails to disclose identifying a count representing the number of laser encoded areas on said disk, each one of said plurality of programs on said disk being uniquely associated with a particular one of the laser encoded areas, as recited in present claim 19, and also fails to disclose using the first individualized code obtained to process first data associated with the first code and using the second individualized code obtained to process second data associated with the second individualized code, as recited in present claim 22. Therefore, applicant submits that claims 19, 22 and 23 are not anticipated by Yokota.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota and in view of applicant's admitted prior art, applicant submits that for the reasons discussed below present claim 1-18
5 are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references.

Claim 1 recites first and second areas having laser encoded data representing information identifying respective program data. Claim 6 recites first and
10 second areas having laser encoded data representing individualizable information. Claim 14 recites respective areas on first and second layers having laser encoded data for identifying respective program data. Claim 15 is directed to an apparatus for encoding a disk
15 having the recited first and second codes onto the first and second layers.

The teachings of Yokota have been discussed hereinabove. As mentioned above, the first and second management areas taught by Yokota are associated with the
20 same program data, and the second management area is accessed in response to information in the first management area. Applicant submits that there is nothing in Yokota or the admitted prior art to teach or suggest the combination of the management areas of Yokota with
25 the known BCA information to derive the proposed combination. Yokota seeks to add character information on a second data area, in addition to data management information, on the disk, but does not mention or suggest the above-mentioned feature of the present invention.

30 In view of the above, applicant submits that nowhere do Yokota or applicant's admitted prior art teach or suggest the limitations recited in present claims 1, 6, 14 and 15, and as such, the subject claims, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably
35 distinguishable over the cited prior art references.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 20 and 21
under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota
in view of Oshima (U.S. Pat. No. 6,081,785), Applicant
submits that for the reasons discussed below the subject
5 claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited
prior art references.

The teachings of Yokota have been discussed
hereinabove. Oshima is cited as disclosing laser
encoding Burst Cutting Areas or partially removing
10 reflection film. However, as discussed above, Applicant
submits that the first and second management areas taught
by Yokota are entirely distinguishable from the encoded
data areas recorded in respective data areas as recited
in the present claims. Oshima teaches laser encoded BCA
15 or partially removing reflection film, but fails to teach
or suggest individualized coded data associated with a
respective one of a plurality of programs on a disk as
recited in claim 19, nor the first and second
identification data recorded in respective first and
20 second data areas as recited in present claim 21.
Therefore, Applicant submits that Oshima fails to cure
the defect with respect to Yokota, and as such, claims 20
and 21 are patentably distinguishable over the cited
prior art references.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action. No fee is believed due in regard to the present amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832. Should any questions arise regarding any of the above, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 609-734-6815.

Respectfully submitted,
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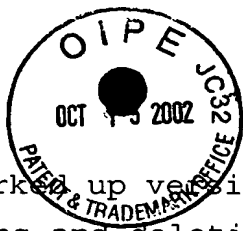
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Date: 10/7/02

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Marked up version of amended claims indicating
additions and deletions:

6. (Amended) A recording medium comprising:
5 a first layer and a second [layers] layer, each of
said layers containing respective program data;
a first area on said first layer and a second area
on said second layer, said areas having laser encoded
data representing [individualizable] individualized
10 information.

19. (Amended) A method for processing a disk
[having more than one laser encoded data for identifying
more than one] having a plurality of programs on said
15 disk, comprising the steps of:

identifying a count representing the number of
laser encoded areas on said disk, each one of said
plurality of programs on said disk being uniquely
associated with a particular one of the laser encoded
20 areas;

obtaining a first laser encoded data by reading
from a first laser encoded area on said disk; and

obtaining a subsequent laser encoded data by
reading from a subsequent laser encoded area on said disk
25 until the number of laser encoded areas read equals to
said count.

22. (Amended) A method for processing a disk,
comprising the steps of:

30 obtaining, from the disk, a first individualized
code [encoded individually] disposed on a first area of
the disk; [and]

using the first individualized code obtained to
process first [main] data associated with the first
35 code[, the method further characterized by:];

obtaining, from the disk, a second individualized
code [encoded individually] disposed on a second area of
the disk; and

5 using the second individualized code obtained to
process second data associated with the second
individualized code.

23. (Amended) A method for forming a disk,
comprising the steps of:

10 encoding first main data on a first area of the
disk; and

encoding[, individually,] a first individualized
code on a second area of the disk for identifying the
first main data[, the method further characterized by:];

15 encoding second main data on a third area of the
disk; and

encoding[, individually,] a second individualized
code on a [forth] fourth area of the disk for identifying
the second main data.

20

Marked up version of replacement abstract showing
additions and deletions:

--A system and method of identifying programs
contained on a disk of any format, including, for
5 example, either a single-sided or a double-sided disk
with either a single-layer or multi-layer tracks, are
presented. In particular, a dual-sided recording medium
is disclosed having respective program data on the first
and the second sides of said medium. In addition, the
10 medium has a first area on the first side and a second
area on the second side, and the areas have laser encoded
data representing [individualizable] individualized
information relating to said respective program data.
The areas may or may not overlap each other depending on
15 the configuration chosen. Also disclosed is an apparatus
for laser encoding the above-described recording medium,
and a method for processing a disk having more than one
laser encoded areas.--